THE DRUMBEAT
Student media since 1927
Tyler Junior College

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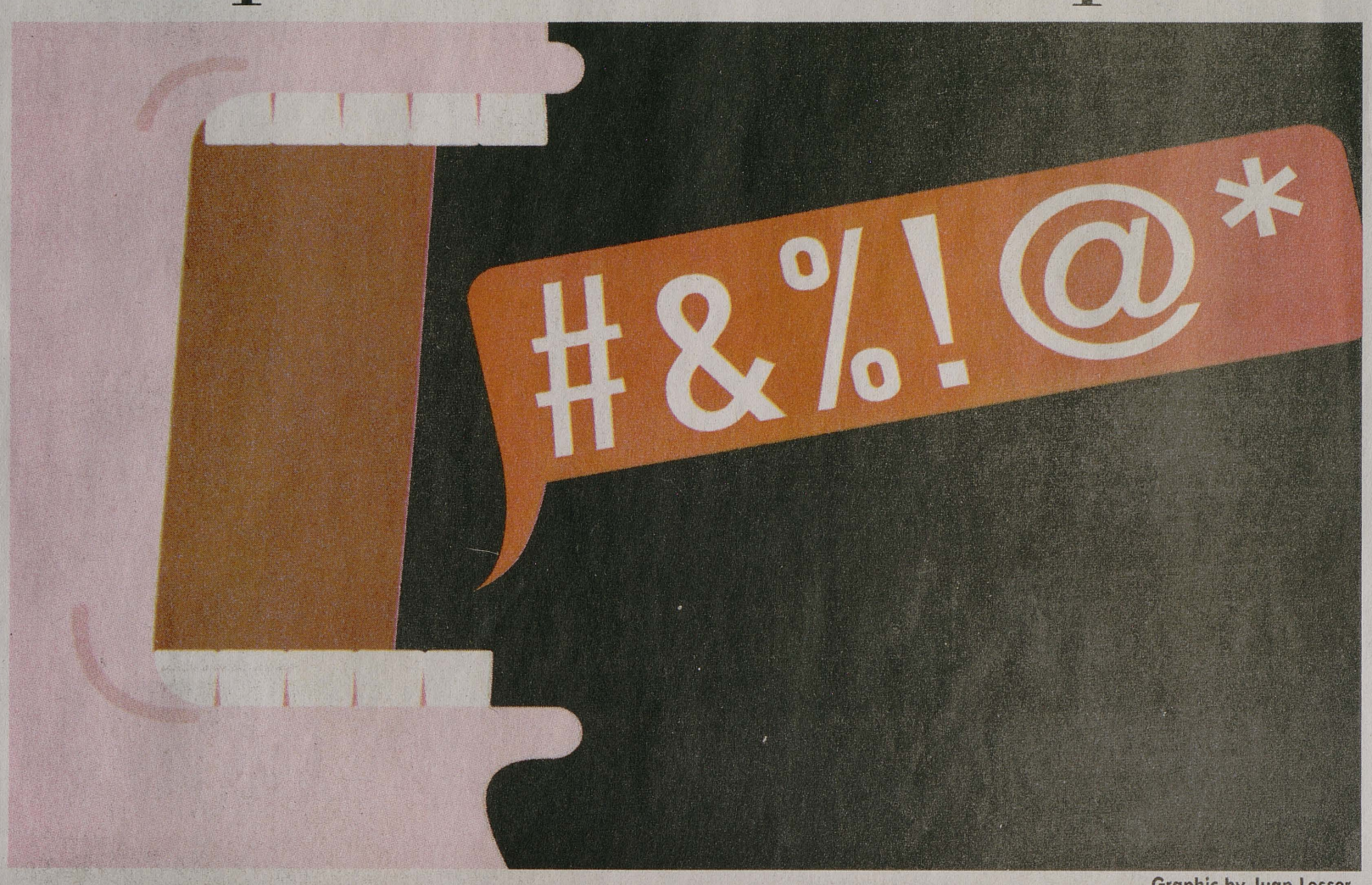
Vol. 88 Issue 10 February 28 - March 19, 2020

To speak or not to speak?



Graphic by Juan Lesser

New Senate bill protects hate speech on college campuses

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Open air outreach preacher Jesse Morrell appeared on Tyler Junior College's campus to pursue his mission of "taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to sinners through open air preaching" in last November.

Joel Park and his son Tor, Christian evangelists who accompanied Morrell to campus in November, recently made an appearance at TJC on Feb. 25. According to his Facebook page, Park is the founder of Pixels of Light Ministries and Inlight Productions; he studied at TJC in 2000.

"It's not hate speech. That's a subjective term," Park said. "It's a place to talk to students about God. College students need God." After Morrell's latest controversial appearance, many have debated the legality of his actions, as well as TJC's ability to limit them.

Some view Morrell's preaching as hate speech attacking various demographics under evangelical Christian beliefs. According to Morrell's Twitter, he has made appearances at TJC since 2004 when he was arrested for trespassing on campus. However, with the passage of Texas Senate Bill 18, Morrell returned to campus in November under new speech protections.

Senate Bill 18, titled "Relating to the protection of expressive activities at public institutions of higher education," took effect on Sept. 1, 2019. According to Marketing and Enrollment Services Vice President Kim Lessner, the bill allows outside speakers in "common outdoor areas" on campus, so long as the speakers practice lawful conduct and avoid producing "substantial disruptions."

In regard to the verbal conduct of outside speakers on campus, "hate speech," which expresses distaste toward a particular person or group of people, is protected under the First Amendment. However, these speech protections are subject to exceptions.

"Speech that threatens, harasses, defames, or incites persons to imminent violence is prohibited in and out of college campuses," according to Ana Vieira Ayala of the State Bar of Texas. "Yet the courts have, over the history of this country, carved out exceptions to the First Amendment right to free speech and these exceptions have been applied in the university setting." Such exceptions include "fighting words" and other forms of speech that threaten or incite violence.

Similar to the exceptions found within First Amendment free speech protections, Senate Bill 18 allows universities to specify when and where outside speakers can appear. According to the Texas Tribune, the bill was partially proposed in response to some college campuses, such as Texas A&M University and Texas Southern University, limiting or canceling appearance and expression by conservative speakers.

"The bill also allows institutions to adopt a policy that imposes some limited restrictions on this type of speaker," Lessner said, "and TJC will develop a policy within those guidelines and make that policy available."

Lessner sent a campuswide email after Morrell's November appearance to notify faculty of the proposed policy and the appropriate responses to outside speakers on campus. It is unknown whether the policy will include restrictions on when and where speakers can practice their freedom of expression at TJC.

Public Affairs and Media Relations Director Rebecca Sanders said this developmental policy will be implemented prior to Aug. 1, 2020.

Scholarship deadlines set for March 1

By Dax Davenport
Contributing Writer

Approximately $4 million in scholarships are given by donors to TJC every year. With these scholarships, TJC has provided students with many opportunities to help get their education funded.

Recently, TRIO Student Support Services and the Academic Success Center hosted a scholarship workshop to help students apply for scholarships.

This event taught students where to look for scholarships, what documents are required for most, who is eligible, application tips and deadlines for the on-campus scholarship opportunities.

"Many scholarship donors will designate money for factors other than GPA like first-generation students, students from certain hometowns, students in particular majors, ethnicity, financial need or artistic talent," said Andrea Hathcote, scholarship reviewer and professor. "There are so many opportunities that it just makes sense to apply."

The deadline for TJC's scholarship application is March 1.

TRIO hosts many other workshops for students, including a career workshop to help students figure out where they want to go after college.

Graphic by Juan Lesser

African American suffragettes celebrated for their activism

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Women suffragette speakers inform TJC students about voting.
Photo by Cecilia Kohl

TJC's History and Geography Department hosted an event called "Lifting as We Climb: Why We Vote" on Feb.13, commemorating 100 years of women's suffrage and the African American suffragettes who worked to see the 19th Amendment ratified.

History professors Dr. Sharon Kyser and Donna Belt hosted the event. In an effort to promote voter registration and local involvement, Belt and Kyser invited Marilyn Wills, president of the Smith County chapter of the League of Women Voters. The LWV also played a role in the women's suffrage movement.

"This is a process that took decades and involved millions of women," Belt said. "I wanted to celebrate that story."

Present to tell that story were Dee Pendleton of Delta Sigma Theta and Rubye Kendrick of Alpha Kappa Alpha, both African American sororities that were involved in the fight for women's suffrage.

Women's Suffrage
Continued on Page 4

Reminders for spring graduates

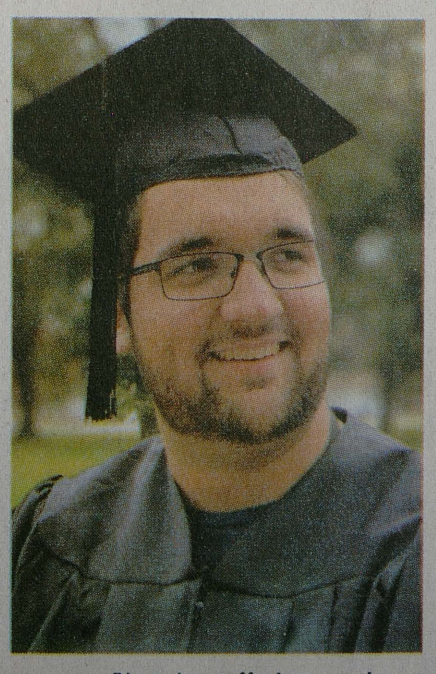


Photo by staff photographer

By Cassidy Winnborn
Photo Editor

Reminder, spring 2020 graduation is May 8. For those who are walking the stage, the deadline to apply for graduation is March 20. Students who are not planning on walking the stage need to apply for graduation by May 7.

"Graduation is such a milestone event for our students and their families that we want to make sure everyone who wants to walk has an opportunity to do so," said Britt Sabota, Registrar.

To apply for graduation, go to www.tjc.edu/graduation/confirmation. Students must complete the required credit hours with an average of at least a 2.0 GPA.

For a degree, certification or award completion, at least 25% of the credit semester hours must be earned through instruction completed at TJC.

For more information about graduation, go to www.tjc.edu/graduation.

NEW IN POP CULTURE

Reviews of what's been happening the past couple weeks in entertainment

Photo by Looper

Robert 'Battinson' rises as the new Batman

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

Since the announcement of a new Batman film starring Robert Pattinson, being separate from the established "DC Expanded Universe," fans of the character have been speculating what this iteration will look like.

Matt Reeves, the director of the project, has kept details about the movie fairly under wraps. He has been vocal about his casting choices and the tone that the movie is going for, which is "thrilling but also emotional," said Reeves in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter.

It wasn't until recently that we finally got a test footage shot of Pattinson in the finished suit. The overall consensus appears to be positive, but like all things comic related, there are some who like to criticize every aspect of the character.

Most of the complaints given to the suit are about the cowl and the way they presented it. A lot of comparisons have been made to Netflix's "Daredevil," due to the red lighting and the armor looking similar.

While these can seem similar to each other, the Daredevil character has taken a lot of influence from the character of Batman, so the argument can be made for both sides.

Fans have also shared some of their theories on the new bat sigil on the costume. The wings of the bat look to some as the handle of a handgun, leaving some to think that it's made of the gun used to kill Bruce Wayne's parents.

If that's the case, Matt Reeves isn't joking about the darker tone this film would have.

In the end, there is a strangeness surrounding the film, only when it is released can the fans see if these decisions are justified.

Billie Eilish makes Bond 25 theme music

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

The name's Eilish, Billie Eilish, and she has just written and released the new song for the 25th James Bond movie titled "No Time to Die."

When it was announced that she would be writing the new song, I was wondering why that was the case, considering she's a relative newcomer to the music industry and her sound is arguably different than most. Fortunately, she was able to add her style while still making it sound like a cinematic score.

Her whispering and somber voice really help set the mood for the song and help give an insight to what the tone of the new movie will be. The ending of the song helps bring the cinematic quality as well. Billie hits the loudest note I have ever heard her hit.

If there was any criticism toward the song, it seems to be trying to ride off the success of Adele's song for the 23rd Bond film "Skyfall." That isn't to say Eilish is the only one to do this; Sam Smith wrote the song "Writing's on the Wall" from the 24th Bond film "Spectre." It seems that the people in charge of the series are trying to ride off the success of Adele's song and are trying to copy the feel of it. It makes me wonder how much creative control the past two artists have had on the songs.

This is a minor nit-pick but I personally find it annoying when studios choose someone not for their artistic ability but instead to target to a specific demographic that maybe wouldn't have come to see the movie otherwise. Not to say Billie doesn't have talent but it is obvious that they got her because she popular.

As it stands, I think the new song is well written and will be a fine addition to the songs of this long running series.

Photo by futureoftheforce.com

Photo by didgitalweekly.com

Stranger Things 4 trailer is strange

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

After the season finale of "Stranger Things 3," many were left wondering where the show could go after the involvement of Russians and the return of the Mind Flayer. We finally got a look at "Stranger Things 4" with a small teaser.

The trailer opens on a forest in the middle of a winter snow storm. There appears to be some sort of prisoner camp in Russia. It shows prisoners working on a railroad track until it pans down to see a prisoner facing away from the camera. It's revealed to be the character Jim Hopper, who was presumed dead at the end of season three.

Most expected this to be the case for the character, considering that the audience never got to see him actually die.

For me personally, I found season three to be underwhelming due to its reliance on the formula setup since season one and out of place humor spread throughout. The main threat, being the entities of the Upside Down, didn't feel as threatening or mysterious this season. It feels as if the writers are just making it up as it goes along, which is never a good sign.

However, this season looks like it's going for a darker tone which is most welcome.

Just by the shots and lighting, one can tell this season has a more serious tone. I'm also glad they revealed Hopper to be alive now because if they had tried to do a big reveal in the show, it would have come across as cheesy.

One fan on Reddit, according to nme.com, thinks that the season four debut will be on April 3, 2020. However, that seems unlikely, considering the show had a year between season one and two and a two year break between season two and three.

The best we can do is wait and see what the Duffer brothers have planned for the show.

'Sonic: The Hedgehog' is a fun time

By Hillary White
Contributing Writer and Photographer

If you want to bring your inner child out, "Sonic the Hedgehog" is the movie for you! The beloved 90s classic video game icon and cartoon series character came to the big screen on Feb. 14. I was very excited to see this fast, blue spikey hedgehog come to life on the silver screen. My 6-year-old inner self was jumping for joy.

Sonic is hiding from anybody who is trying to harm him but finds a safe haven on Earth. Sonic hides there and makes himself a home and a new friend. Sonic causes a citywide power outage, which draws the attention of an evil mastermind scientist called Dr. Eggman (Jim Carrey). Sonic hides in Tom Wachowski's (Jim Marsden) garage to hide from Dr. Eggman. Sonic loses his pouch full of rings that transport him to different locations.

Tom and Sonic then embark a journey to San Francisco to get the rings. Along the way they participated in a bar fight and Dr. Eggman's robots continuously attempted to beat him. Jim and Sonic make it to San Francisco to get his rings and prepare for a battle Dr. Eggman.

I thought the movie was decent; it's faithful to the video game character and it also helped that Paramount delayed the original release by three months in order to fix Sonic's animation.

Overall, the movie was decent, but I was expecting a little bit more from the storyline. As with most movies, there is an extra scene at the ending. I would give it a grade of a B+. Sonic was very kid-friendly, so the family can go and watch it.

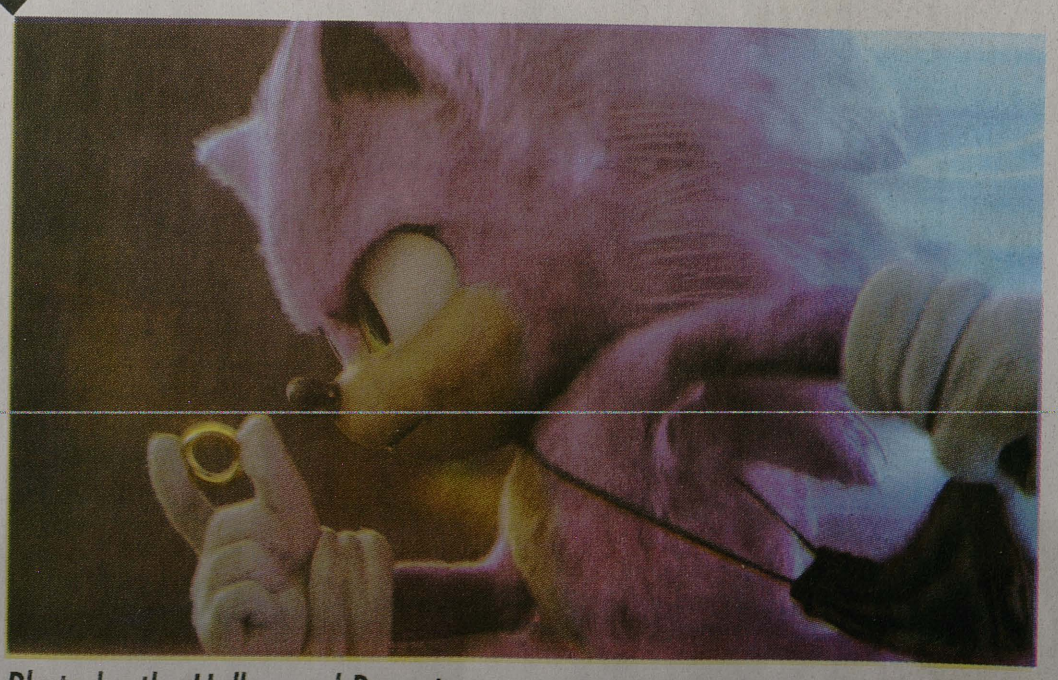


Photo by the Hollywood Reporter

THE APACHE ARCHIVES 2020

This week in history Feb. 28 - March 6

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Apache Archives is a recurring historical article featuring a timeline of anniversary events for a week. There will be a weekly spotlight interviewing TJC faculty and students or community members on the impact of a highlighted historical event.

Feb. 28

Photo from the FBI

The ATF began a raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas in 1993.

Waco siege still leaves a mark, decades in its wake

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

From Feb. 28 to April 19, 1993, a standoff ensued between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, working with the FBI, and a religious sect called the Branch Davidians near Waco, Texas. By the end of the 51-day siege, the sect's compound at Mt. Carmel burned to the ground; nearly 80 men, women and children were found dead, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

According to the Gospel Coalition, the Branch Davidians were a splinter sect of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. They were eventually led by a man named David Koresh (born Vernon Howell), who took several wives within the sect, some of whom were minors. Koresh claimed to be a modern prophet and persuaded the group to build an "army of God" in preparation for the apocalypse. The Branch Davidians then began stockpiling weapons, which alerted federal authorities.

The siege began when 70 ATF agents attempted to carry out a search warrant on the Mt. Carmel compound. A gunfight erupted and four federal agents, along with six Branch Davidians, were reported dead. In the following 50 days, authorities communicated with Koresh in an attempt to persuade the Branch Davidians to leave the compound. The final assault on the compound involved the use of tear gas to draw members out of the building; however, several fires erupted and the entire compound was engulfed in flames. Along with those who died in the fire, investigators found nearly 20 Branch Davidians who died from gunshot wounds, including Koresh.

Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith, an ATF agent during the Waco siege, shared his experiences during the 51-day standoff.

"My role was that of operating a Bradley armored vehicle and later as liaison with the Texas Rangers," Smith said. "My initial reaction was like anyone else in law enforcement – what can I do to help the situation?"

The causes and ethics of the siege are still disputed 27 years later. Some criticize the actions of federal authorities, while others believe the Branch Davidians' activities warranted federal intervention.

"Things could have been done differently in retrospect, but hindsight is 20/20," Smith said. "History is always important to look back on. One of the reasons is to ensure we don't repeat history, but learn from it."

Koresh is buried in the Tyler Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum. The grave was initially unmarked, but a granite marker was later placed at the site. Additionally, the still-occupied Branch Davidian compound and the remains of Mt. Carmel center can still be visited today.

March 1

Photo from Bettman Corbis Stock Pictures

Three women were arrested for alleged witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692.

March 2

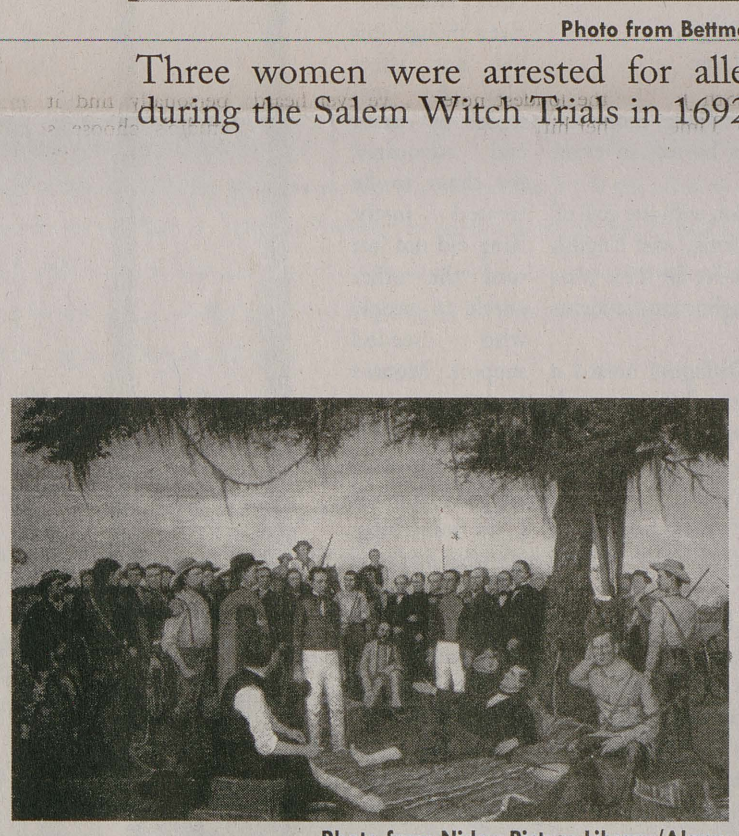


Photo from Niday Picture Library/Alamy

Texas declared independence from Mexico, becoming the Republic of Texas in 1836.

March 3

Photo by Larry W. Smith/European Pressphoto Agency

Steve Fossett performed the first nonstop solo flight around the world in 2005.

March 4

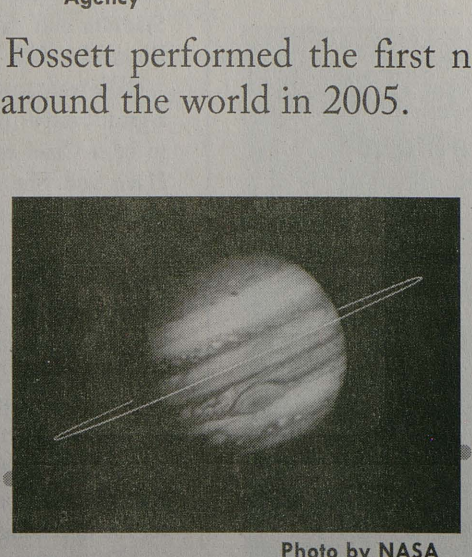


Photo by NASA

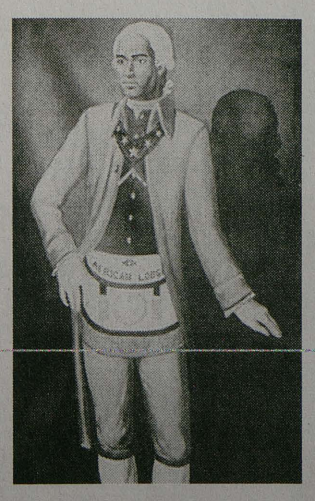
Photos from U.S. spacecraft Voyager I revealed the rings of Jupiter in 1979.

March 5

Photo from thefreedomtrail.com

Five men are killed by British soldiers during the Boston Massacre in 1770.

March 6



The first African Americans were initiated into the Freemasons in 1775.

TJC students prepare to visit Costa Rica in May

Courtesy of Costa Rica Photo Gallery

Foreign Languages Department Chair and Professor John Hays explains the scenery.

Courtesy of Costa Rica Photo Gallery

Students enjoy a ride on a cart pulled by cattle through Costa Rica.

By Sorayda Rivera
Staff Writer

Project Costa Rica is a 10-day trip from May 11-20 that includes community service and fun. This is the 12th year TJC will be traveling to Costa Rica. "Costa Rica 12" is the theme for this year's trip. Project Costa Rica was the initiator of this trip. Some of the project goals per the website include actively participating in numerous outdoor service projects to experience, understand and appreciate the cultural heritage of Costa Rica, to engage in physical activities, including hiking, biking, running, snorkeling and surfing, to explore a variety of natural environments in Costa Rica, to engage in scientific investigations, including both botanical or agroforestry-centered and animal-focused projects and more.

Foreign Languages Department Chair and Professor John Hays explained on this trip the traveler doesn't do anything "heavy," but does work. In the past, students have painted; sanded desks; reconditioned health centers; taught short tobacco prevention, first aid, and English courses; and planted trees.

There is an ongoing project the locals named Corredor Tyler. Students in 2010 planted trees to reestablish the land where jaguars roam.

"This trip is a life-changing experience," Hays said. "It gives you the travel experience you've probably never had."

This trip will accommodate two meals a day, entrance fees, land transportation within Costa Rica and the USA, hotel transfers, administration fees and orientation costs.

The itinerary is always subject to change, but students can expect to experience a full day at various project sites like Quebrada Grande, San Antonio and Las Lilas.

During this trip, the traveler will also visit the Hanging Bridges, Lago Arenal, Tamarindo Playa and more locations. Students can also experience horseback riding as well as lunch and shopping at La Fortuna also known as the gateway to Arenal Volcano National Park, comprising two volcanoes. Keep an eye out for the Resplendent Quetzal, a rare bird that can be found in the mountain forests of Costa Rica.

Amaya Blanton, who is on her second time going to Costa Rica, said her favorite part of the trip was getting to plant trees at a 45-degree angle on a hill.

"You get to see the difference you are making by being a part of the reforestation," Blanton said. "Everyone is really friendly. It's an adventure I am going to look back on and tell my kids about."

Randal Setzler is a first-time traveler and he is mostly excited about seeing the hanging bridges and putting his Spanish into practice.

There is a partial scholarship and students are the only ones who qualify. Application and information for this scholarship can be found on the Costa Rica Travel Study website.

Health, accident, baggage and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

For the full trip itinerary, conditions and responsibilities, application information and more, visit https://www.tjc.edu/info/20030/travel_study_programs/224/costa_rica_travel_study.

For additional questions or concerns, contact Hays at 903-510-2457 or jhay@tjc.edu.

Professor of CIS/Gaming and Simulation Development Gigi Delk (gdel@tjc.edu) and Professor of Mathematics Ramona Alger (ralg@tjc.edu) are also project leaders on this trip and can be contacted for questions.

Campus reflects on Martin Luther King Jr.'s fight for economic freedoms

TJC Dialogues discuss value of a dime

By Mary Mone
Contributing Writer

In hopes of getting students talking about the value of a dime, TJC Dialogues hosted an event about Martin Luther King Jr.

TJC Dialogues is an organization with the goal of, "getting students thinking and talking," said English Professor Bridget Moore. Being active for three years in TJC Dialogues, Moore has taught many students about the value of a dime.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, TJC Dialogues hosted a showing of The Red Rock Historical Association's documentary, "The Witness: From the Balcony of Room 306." At the start of the event, Moore handed a dime to each person in the room.

"This year I thought, how can I help them remember the value of a dime? It is more than 10 cents for me," Moore said.

The dialogue focused on the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, and the meaning behind what happened. King traveled there to help fight for economic equality for the African American sanitation workers. History.com writes, "In the months before his assassination, Martin Luther King became increasingly concerned with the problem of economic inequality in America. He organized a Poor People's Campaign to focus on the issue, including a march on Washington, and in March 1968 traveled to Memphis in support of poorly treated African American sanitation workers." While advocating for the workers to receive a dime raise, King was assassinated.

To shed light on how the sanitation worker's pay did not affect King, Moore asked students if they, "ever pause and try to be empathetic to someone else's situation?" Even though this did not affect him, he still stood by them and advocated for them to be treated justly. King did not just turn the other cheek to people who needed support. Moore's favorite quote on this subject is, "It's not what happens to me if I do something, it's what happens to them if I don't."

The Dean of Humanities, Communications and Fine Arts Dr. Linda Gary said how the fight for a decent wage particularly affects college students.

"You know we have students who go to work full time, they go to school full time and they have a lot of demands on their lives, and minimum wage really hits the lowest economic level," Gary said. "I mean, it's going to be difficult to survive on minimum wage. It is a serious issue."

This TJC Dialogue event encouraged students to pause and to not take money for granted. The same dime that is seen on the street or between couch cushions is the dime that Martin Luther King Jr. died advocating for.

All students are welcome to attend and participate in the "thinking and talking" mission of the TJC Dialogues.

There are two events in April, including a Holocaust Remembrance Day and a lecture on worldview. The Holocaust Remembrance Day will take place at 4:30 p.m. on April 20 in the Azalea Garden that is down the steps by Jenkins Hall. The lecture on worldview with Dr. Paul Streufert from the University of Texas at Tyler will take place at 10 a.m. on April 21 in the Board Room.

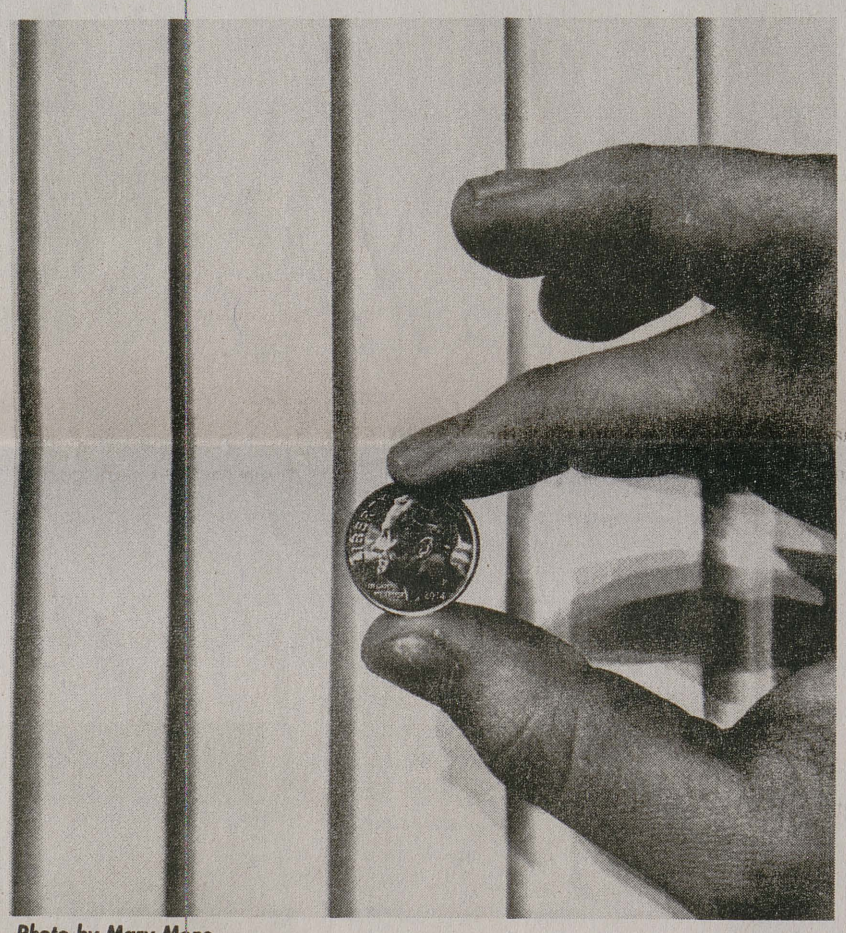


Photo by Mary Mone

During the TJC Dialogues, TJC English Professor Bridget Moore explained the value of a dime to students and related it to Martin Luther King Jr.'s fight for economic freedom.

DB

Have an opinion? Share it with us by writing a guest column or a letter to the editor.

If you are interested in sharing, here's what you need to know.

- The Drumbeat invites its readers to share views by writing letters to the editor.
- All contributions will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (300 words maximum), profanity and personal attacks.
- All letters must include the author's name, address, telephone number and academic classification.
- Editors reserve the right to deny publication of any letter.

Email letters to news@thedrumbeat.com or bring to Jenkins 1114 B.

Women's Suffrage: Historians discuss influential figures

Continued from Page 1

Kendrick and Pendleton spoke about women's suffrage as a whole, but mainly spoke about the contributions of some of the African American women who fought at the forefront of the movement: Anna Cooper, Frances Harper, Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells.

"Several of them were really educators in the belief as black women, they needed to facilitate the social uplift and all of the changes that really needed to happen within our community," Kendrick said.

Pendleton said the conjunction of 100 years of women's voting and Black History Month provided an opportunity to speak about both topics together, stating that research began nearly a month prior to the event.

"I'm a historian," Pendleton said. "So for me, it's always important to get different perspectives about the same event, so I applaud this opportunity to do that."

The lecture included discussions about the Civil Rights Movement and other historical efforts made to reduce restrictions on African American voting. Additionally, an open discussion was held to explore the importance of student voting, particularly within Smith County.

The LWV maintains a website for election information and voter registration at vote411.

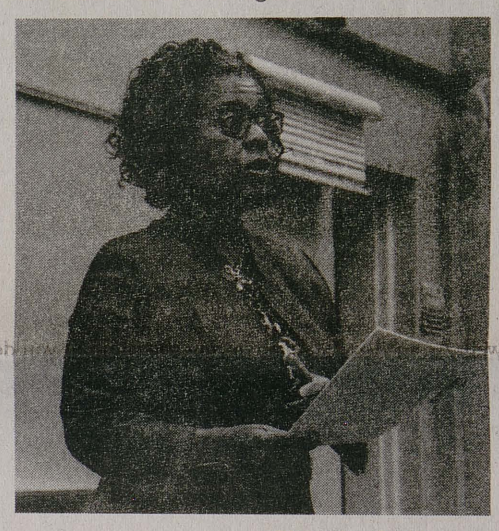


Photo by Cecilia Kohl

Apache Chiefs encourage unity, service projects on TJC campus

By Larry Adisa
Contributing Writer

The Apache Chiefs perform service projects and host campus events every year as leaders on campus. Kyleigh Havir, a returning chief, helps find projects and brainstorm ideas each semester. A service project has been scheduled for the spring semester as part of the Chiefs commitment to volunteerism.

The Chiefs picked up trash as part of Keeping TJC Beautiful for their latest service.

"We love to give back to TJC, and promote other students to do the same," Havir said.

The Chiefs have also hosted different events on-campus in the past, such as the fall 2019 homecoming "Gold Rush" at the Rose Stadium and the silent disco in the Apache Rooms last fall.

"We want to show the students that we have a great campus life, encouraging them to apply to be a Chief and make change on campus," Havir said. She added that the events were to promote campus life while also showing that serving the school and the students can be a fun and rewarding experience.

The Chiefs are an organization that leads the new student orientation every year. The previous year's returning Chiefs host events on campus to promote the student life, while also catching the interest of students for recruitment. Once a new team has been recruited, most of the spring is spent conducting service projects and training for the upcoming summer.

"This organization is like a family, and each one of us has the potential to change someone's life," Havir said.

Students who went to orientation often end up applying and becoming Chiefs based solely on the experience they had with previous Chiefs at orientation, hoping to also be part of the process of changing other students' lives and promoting campus life.

Q&A

Kacey Moore, Apache Chief and New Student Orientation Leader

Interview by Zhaekyra White
Contributing Writer

What is an Apache Chief?
An Apache Chief technically is a new student orientation leader, but they are also the first face of TJC: a guiding hand into the transition of college, which can be scary to some students. We are here to serve the college and incoming students on their new journey into their education and future.

What does being in this organization mean to you?
Every time I am reminded that I am an Apache Chief, I light up. When I met my Apache Chief, I fell in love with the organization instantly. It's an organization that is built to serve and help others. Knowing that I do this just for a job is so much more than that. I'm changing lives through summer sessions, talking one on one, events and just staying connected and creating relationships. If I were not in Chiefs, I don't know where I would be right now. Apache Chiefs has helped me learn more about myself, makes me stronger every day and helps me see the more meaningful side of a person every day.

What are your responsibilities?
I am responsible for representing TJC, helping my team be at their best as well as myself, creating connections with faculty, parents and students, helping students transition into college as well as getting them involved and making sure everyone has a smile on their face.

What type of benefits come with being an Apache Chief?
The benefits with this position is free stuff such as shirts, backpacks, jackets, polos, shoes, water bottles, etc. Another is travel. We travel to retreats, conferences and little road trips just with the team for fun, as well. As an Apache chief, during the summer you don't have to worry about housing since the organization has you covered and you get to stay in the dorms and eat at the cafe with your team. One of the best benefits is that there is a scholarship awarded to you at the end of all your service throughout the summer. Last, but not least, is the relationships you create and being able to look back and see all the good that you did.

Why should others consider joining this organization?
It's a wonderful organization that keeps you involved as well as looking good on a resume. You learn more people skills while having fun at the same time with all your friends. During training, you dive deep into your personal strengths and all in all this organization helps you grow. I have never regretted taking on this position.

How does juggling school work and being an Apache Chief work?
I asked myself the same question when I first started, but honestly it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. During my first semester with this organization, I had a job, was a full-time student, in the honors program as well as just sometimes wanting to go home, but in reality I still had time to myself. I ended up with all A's, got to travel abroad with TJC and still be a Chief. The only advice is don't fill up your plate. Know what you can handle and go for it.

What is the most exciting thing you've got to do?
While being a part of chiefs, the most exciting thing that I got do personally was getting to drive around TJC during the summer in golf carts. It's the small things that bring me joy and getting to do that with my closest friends was so much fun. We all felt official! Another would be that I got to run for homecoming and actually was third runner up for the TJC 2019 homecoming. It was so exciting to dress up and represent an organization you love in front of the entire school and your family! As well as staying up at 3 a.m. for the DrumBeat and seeing raccoons on campus.

What is your favorite thing about being an Apache Chief?
That's a hard question because I love everything, but if I were to be honest it would be the friends I get to make. Coming to college is scary especially if you don't know anyone. After I joined, I made unbreakable bonds with people I never thought in a million years I would be friends with. I grew close to so many people that I now consider family and I can't see a life without them; they have helped me a lot.

What are things that you work toward?
When you join this organization you are considered a newbie and if you get asked to come back a second year you are considered a returner. I wanted to become a returner so, so bad! I gave 110% every day just so I could come back and it all paid off because now I am. As a returner, you get to become this guiding light to all the newbies, and you also earn littles that you become an inspiration to them. It's a good feeling to know you did good.

Q&A

Jason Walker, Professor of English

Interview and photo by
Charlotte Jones
Contributing Writer

What's your favorite part about TJC?
Oh gosh, there are so many things. I think I like that it is a big school, but it has the community feeling of a smaller school where people can develop close relationships, whether with fellow students or colleagues or anyone else.

Tell me a bit about yourself?
This is my third semester here teaching at TJC. Prior to that, I taught middle school and high school. I grew up in East Texas, and in fact, I actually attended TJC right out of high school. So my first college class after high school was actually an English class here at TJC in this building. So I've sort of come full circle back to where I've started. I enjoy music; I started out as a music major and then changed along the way.

Why did you decide to switch to English?
I've always loved reading and writing. I've been an avid reader and writer since I was a little kid, so that love was always there. Then when I figured out how much I was going to have to practice to be a music major, I decided that – well, it's not because I was lazy but because I was afraid I was going to get burnt out on music, and I didn't ever want to get burnt out on music. So I decided I would rather keep music as a hobby.

So you said you're an avid reader? Who's your favorite author?
Well, if I have to pick one favorite I would say Flannery O'Connor, but I like many authors. I like a lot of Southern American literature.

How would you describe your teaching style or philosophy?
I like to have a conversation with my students about whatever the topic of the day is. I like to talk, but I like to hear them speak, as well. I'm casual but still tough.

Could you elaborate on the TJC culture? How would you describe it?
I would describe it as a community. I don't think I would go so far as to describe it as a family. There's a lot of pride, and rightfully so, but from the students' side and the faculty side, as well. It's just a fun place to be.

A lot of students have a hard time imagining their teacher's life outside the classroom, but you have a life outside TJC, so what's that like? Any hobbies?
I have lots of hobbies, but I don't get to spend much time on them. Music, of course, is a hobby.

Do you play anything?
I sing and I play the piano and most brass instruments. I was a vocal performance major when I started out. I also like to cook and eat, obviously. And of course, it's part of my job as well as reading and writing are hobbies. I'm working on a book.

Can you tell me about your book?
Sure, it's a book about my life growing up here in East Texas and suffering from anxiety and panic attacks as a little kid and how that impacted who I became and the choices that I made with my life.

What's your favorite part of the job?
Teaching. I just love to teach.

What is one thing students wouldn't know that goes on behind the scenes of your job?
I spend way more time thinking about my job outside of school than they probably realize I do. I'm constantly planning or reassessing something or reading, trying to come up with new ways to make the class interesting. So I'm always working on my classes.

Column: Cyberbullying needs to stop

By Emily Niebuhr
Staff Writer

Why do people sit behind a screen to judge and say mean words to someone who they may not have known anything about? It's hard to hear about young children being bullied either at school or online then taking their own life. Does that seem right to you? We need to protect all generations from any kind of bullying, but here we are going to talk about cyberbullying.

I have experienced a little bit of cyberbullying, so let me tell you it's not fun and something needs to change. According to stopbullying.gov "Children with disabilities such as physical, developmental, intellectual, emotional and sensory are at an increased risk of being bullied."

Cyberbullying is not like face-to-face bullying, instead it takes place behind a screen. Cyberbullies hide behind social media. It's easier for them to pick their victims out to hopefully get other people to follow to bully them. Instagram has the most problems with cyberbullying. According to enough.org, 42% of youths on social media experienced bullying on Instagram while 37% did on Facebook, 31% on Snapchat and 10% on YouTube.

Cyberbullying is when someone sends, posts or shares "negative harmful, false and mean content to someone else," as stated on stopbullying.gov. When did it become a thing on the internet to say mean things to someone else? Cyberbullies think they have all the power since what they say is anonymous.

People shouldn't share anything that could purposely hurt someone whether it's mean words or a screenshot of a private conversation. A 2014 study from Cox "2014 Teen Internet Safety Survey" noted teens said they were bullied because of appearance, academic intelligence, race, sexuality, financial status and religion.

You need to realize the hateful words you say can affect someone's mental health. Please think before you say something since you don't know anything about that person or what's going on in their home life.

Just like us celebrities and artists have been cyberbullied. Many have deleted social media or disabled their comments on Instagram because of some much mean comments. It's hard to see your favorite celebrity going through bullying because they're normal like us but get judged on every little thing.

People think just since they are in the spotlight they are robots and don't feel, but it hurts when they read some mean words or something about themselves that is false.

Please think before you hit send to anyone because you don't know how they will react to it or if the comment could send them into a dark place. The effects of cyberbullying include negative "physical, school and mental health issues," according to Stopbullying.gov.

Where does it end, and what can we do to help? We can make sure to get educated on it, be nice to someone, stand up for the people who are getting bullied, get help if you are struggling and report whoever is bullying you.

I just want to spread love and not hate. We can stride to become better and be nicer to people who have different religions, sexual orientation, look like and race. As Ellen DeGeneres says after her show, "Be kind to one another."

Graphic by Juan Lesser

Column: Breaking down the stigma surrounding community colleges

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Growing up as one of the "gifted and talented" kids in school, I held high standards for myself once I reached my time to decide which college to attend. I felt as though I had to prove my value as an academic, both to myself and to the people around me. However, after some financial turmoil, TJC became my only option. Why wasn't I excited?

One of my initial concerns about coming to TJC was facing judgment for my decision to attend a community college. Talking to my peers, I realized such a concern is fairly common. Many of us have read or overheard members of the community speak critically about community colleges. Some hold the belief that this is where we flock if we're not good enough to attend a four-year university. Junior college academics, athletics, and student life are stereotypically inferior. However, my experiences at TJC have taught me quite the opposite.

TJC truly challenges many of the stereotypes that surround the quality of a community college education. It provides a fairly affordable means of obtaining a college degree, often with the guidance of incredible professors. Some may have had a different experience, but myself and many of my peers have followed a bright path.

Those of us who attend TJC should reach out to high school students or other members of our community, seeking an education, and describe the benefits of attending a junior college. Community colleges provide a means of beginning or continuing one's secondary education at any age. They are a significantly more affordable option for those who cannot pay tuition at four-year colleges – without largely compromising the quality of education.

Throngs of social scientists have studied the effects of education on individuals' life opportunities. Education is perhaps the most significant sociological factor contributing to one's success in adulthood. Education itself is one of the only great assets that cannot be taken from an individual once it is acquired. If someone has the opportunity to receive an education, by any means and at any institution, it should be chased with a fervor. There is no shame in advancing one's education, thus furthering his or her economic and career opportunities in the future, through a community college.

Column: Keeping the faith at Overflow

By Jessica King
Contributing Writer

Hello! My name is Jessica King, and I am a freshman journalism/mass communications major at TJC, but my hope is to pursue religious media when I transfer to a university next spring. I am a Christian and the Lord has put the calling on my heart to share the gospel through writing, which is something I've always been passionate about. My ultimate career goal is to be a Christian author and speaker. In this column, I will write about my faith journey throughout my time here at TJC.

Today, I want to share with you one way God has been moving at Overflow and in my heart throughout this semester. Overflow is a combination of two churches, Friendly Baptist Church and Central Tyler, who hold a college worship service on campus at TJC and UT Tyler every Tuesday night. Friendly Baptist Church is my home church and I am the college intern there, meaning I work with Steve Lyles (the executive pastor of Friendly, and the speaker at Overflow) to prepare for Overflow each week. I help enter information into Orgsync, setup and tear down our venues and more. All that being said, Overflow is very near and dear to my heart, and Tuesdays are my favorite days!

Overflow has been an organization on campus for the past three years, and our most urgent prayer is for growth and consistency. However, a few weeks ago it was very discouraging because only about 10 students showed up. Those 10 were the college students from Friendly Baptist Church, including myself, who are steadfast in serving at Overflow and help organize the event. It almost didn't feel worth it to even hold Overflow that night. I think we all felt like just packing up and going home. No matter how discouraged we all felt, we continued with the worship service and pushed through, knowing the Lord would bless our obedience.

As I was standing in the second row of the UT Tyler University Center Theater worshipping to "How He Loves" by the David Crowder Band, the Holy Spirit whispered to my heart "by faith." What does that even mean? Throughout the book of Hebrews, Paul talks about faith. Paul lists the great examples of faith known as the Hall of Faith, which is a list of God's faithful servants beginning with "by faith Abel" to "by faith Rahab." The Hall of Faith shows how they remained faithful to the Lord and how He blessed their faithfulness in return.

By faith Abel, by faith Enoch, by faith Abraham, by faith Noah, by faith Sarah all remained faithful while on Earth. They clung to the truth that our God is a promise keeper, and they understood that God works on His own time. He makes everything go according to His will. They remained steadfast in serving faithfully because they knew one day there would be a harvest from the seeds they had sewn that would reveal God's glory to all the Earth. This revelation would be something all of Heaven could rejoice in. Wow, this passage of scripture gives me chills (in a good way)!

Hebrews 11:39-40 says, "All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us." His love for us is so great that He doesn't want us to miss out on the blessing of the harvest that would come from these great examples of faith. Because they knew this was God's heart, they remained faithful. That's the gospel, y'all.

I was reminded of the beautiful truth while I was singing that this is the way my friends at Overflow on that rainy Tuesday night, and every Tuesday were living — by faith. Their hearts resemble so much of the hearts of those in the Hall of Faith. They are each humble servants of the Lord who are faithful to show up week in, week out, rain or shine, to load and unload, to set up and tear down. There is a promise to be fulfilled in the distance through Overflow; one that will shine God's glory over the Earth. One that will bring revival among this generation and make Heaven crowded. My cup overflows with gratitude that I get to humbly serve beside them; I am so honored.

So, yes, while that one night at Overflow was discouraging, there was so much encouragement in Steve's, the praise band's and the tech team's obedience. My heart is so overjoyed that I get to hang out with these faithful friends every Tuesday night!

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OHPE Center offers recreation for Tyler community

Photos and Graphics By Juan Lesser

By Yasmeli Alonso
Sports Editor

The Joseph Z. and Louise H. Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center opened in 1986 and is a recreational center open to the community and available to TJC students when needed.

For those who are more of a recreational activities person, the OHPE also offers its own intramural competitive sports for all students and faculty. Yes, that's right! Students can go head to head with their favorite professor. These competitive intramural sports are not affiliated with TJC scholarship and official Apache Athletics Department.

"We offer early recruitment to get students more involved during new student orientation," Anthony Green, sports coordinator assistant, said. "We just really want to let students know the recreational sports is here at TJC. We just want more students to join and have fun. We're really trying to build that student environment back up."

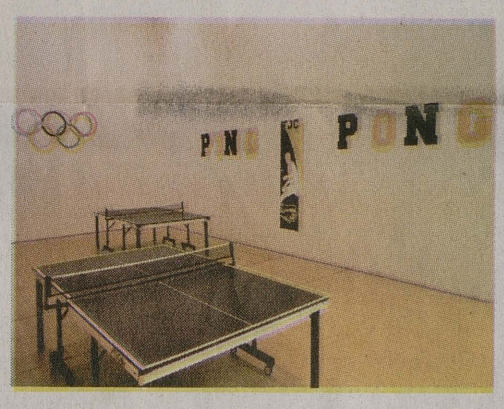
The new student orientation is an event ran by the Apache Chiefs of TJC. They welcome all the new students before the semester. Give the new students a tour around campus, help them set up their new schedules and give them a taste of the college life.

He also explains how this year, the OHPE did something different by allowing the dual-credit students from the TISD high schools to get involved in the competition.

The OHPE offers several physical activities, from weight rooms on the first floor to a ping pong room, racquet ball studio, dance studio, e-game center, basketball court and indoor aquatic center.

On the second floor, the center has a track for walking and running, another weight room and a cardio-respiratory exercise room.

The Intramural sport teams also compete against the University of Texas at Tyler recreational sports division. But it doesn't stop there, TJC rec sports go and compete in the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association competition in Arlington.



Fall Sports	Spring Sports
Indoor Volleyball	7v7 Soccer
Flag Football	5v5 Basketball
Racquetball	Table Tennis
Dodgeball	Bowling Competition
Billiards Pool Tournament	3 Points & Free Throw Competition
Punt, Pass and Kick Competition	E-Sports: FIFA, NBA and Madden
Beach Volleyball/Cornhole Tournament	Weightlifting
	7v7 Water Polo
	Log Rolling

Intramural soccer kickin' in for the spring season

By Zariah Hollmon
Contributing Writer

The spring division of TJC's intramural sports is hosting a new event next month. The new game is a seven versus seven game of soccer on March 23 at the intramural field. The time is unknown.

The soccer tournament is one opportunity among many. It is highly recommended by coordinators of the program.

"People should join, it's really fun to do," said Samuel Cardoza, part-time coordinator of intramural sports.

Anyone can join as the game and teams are co-ed.

Registration to participate for the soccer tournament ends March 18. To register, the potential player can create a team and complete the form at WWW.IMLEAGUES.COM/TJC.

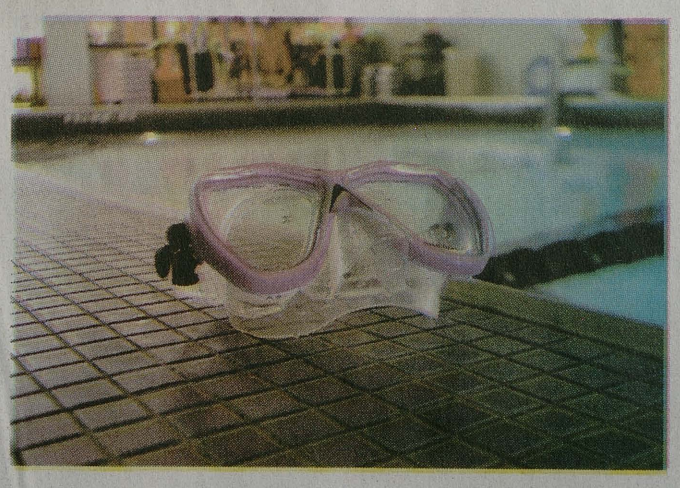
If a team cannot be made, a potential player is eligible to be a "free agent," meaning they would be randomly placed on a team who needs more people.

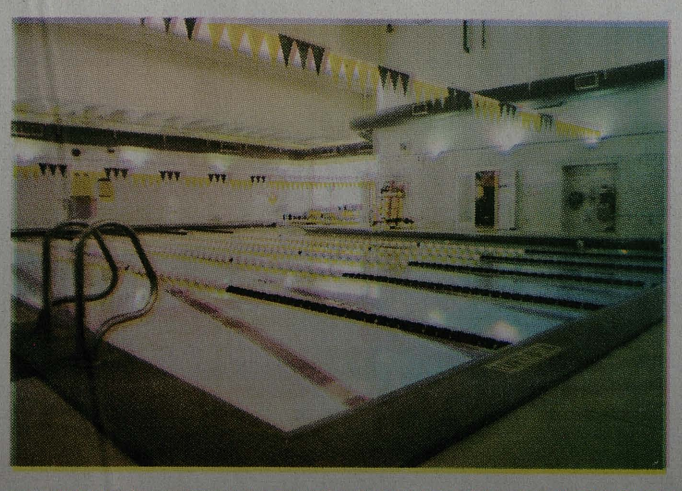
"Intramural gives the students something different and fun to do in this environment," Green said. He added these opportunities are "open to all."

There are multiple sports events that each student can participate in. These can be found at TJC.EDU/INTRAMURALS. These include tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and more.

"We wanted to include every sport, so we always have something people could be interested in," Green said.

For any questions, go to the second floor of the Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center to the Rec Sports office.





OHPE also offers free workout sessions in the weightlifting and cardio-respiratory exercise rooms, Mondays and Wednesdays for classes of 25 students.

The aquatic center is open to students and the public as well with on-the-scene lifeguards.

You can go in for recreational swimming purposes, but they also offer water aerobics, water fitness, A.C.T. half-time aquatic conditioning and swim lessons for both adults and children.

@tjc_ohpe

MARDI GRAS

TJC students enjoying the cake provided at the Mardi Gras celebration.

Graphic by webdesign.com
Photos by Marly Guerrero

Two students posing for a photo with a laughing and sad mask for Mardi Gras.

TJC had a Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday to celebrate Fat Tuesday.

Two students pose for a photoshoot with masks and beads. These items are essential to Mardi Gras.

A special cake known as king cake was served during the celebration. This cake is a traditional sweet for Mardi Gras.

What is the celebration of Mardi Gras?

Mardi Gras, also referred to as Fat Tuesday, is a carnival-like celebration that marks the start of Christian Lent leading up to Easter. Many Christians during this time will fast in honor of the time. Fat Tuesday is when they stop fasting and eat rich foods in celebration. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, TJC threw a celebration for Fat Tuesday. They had king cake and had assortments of beads and masks to take photos with as well as music.

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